

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
 - receiving a request for an information object at an address identified by a uniform resource locator (URL); and
 - mapping the URL to a corresponding unicast address for the information object; and
 - using the unicast address as an anycast address.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the request is received at an information object repository selected without regard as to whether the information object is actually stored at the information object repository.

4. (Original) The method of claims 3 further comprising instructing the selected information object repository to obtain a copy of the information object.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the information object repository is selected according to specified performance metrics.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the performance metrics comprise one or more of: average delay from the selected information object repository to a source of the request, average processing delay at the selected information object repository, reliability of a path from the selected information object repository, available bandwidth in said path, and loads on the selected information object repository.
7. (Previously Presented) A computer system configured to map a uniform resource locator (URL) for an information object to a network layer unicast address in response to a request for an information object at the URL, and to use the unicast address as an anycast address.
8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A network, comprising:
 - at least one client configured to request an information object using a uniform resource locator (URL); and
 - a computer system configured to receive the request for the information object and to map the URL into a network layer unicast address, wherein the computer system uses the network layer unicast address as an anycast address.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 9 further comprising an information object repository coupled to respond to the request for the information object.
12. (Original) The network of claim 11 wherein the information object repository is selected without regard as to whether the information object is actually stored at the information object repository.

13. (Original) The network of claim 12 wherein the information object repository is selected according to specified performance metrics.

14. (Original) The network of claim 13 wherein the performance metrics comprise one or more of: average delay from the selected information object repository to a source of the request, average processing delay at the selected information object repository, reliability of a path from the selected information object repository, available bandwidth in said path, and loads on the selected information object repository.